

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morin-Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee:

I am writing to express my support of S.B. No. 1064, H.B. No. 5004, S.J. No. 29, H.J. No. 1.

I also conditionally support S.B. No. 1057 and H.B. No. 6693.

The voters of Connecticut have voted in favor of the ability to vote in person on days prior to Election Day with 60% approval. This is the time to make it happen. Being one of only 4 states in the nation that does not offer any early voting option is frankly embarrassing.

As you deliberate on how to implement Early Voting, I strongly encourage you to:

- Include at least 14 days of early voting with at least 2 weekends.
- Make Early Voting available starting in 2023 for all elections, including special elections, municipal elections and referendums.
- Provide sufficient funding to implement early voting in a way that includes all eligible voters.
- Provide funding for updated tabulators.
- Fund broad public education about early voting.

I also strongly support No Excuse Absentee Voting. The 2020 election turnout proved that the ability to vote by absentee ballot significantly increases the percentage of citizens participating in our democracy. Increased voter participation should be encouraged and supported.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joelle Berger

Westport CT